



DAVIS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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News Release

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Local And Nationwide Agencies Partner To Provide Free Calls Home For Troops

(Clearfield, Utah) – Staff with the Davis County Health Department’s Senior Services and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) request the public’s help to support a nonprofit agency serving our military members with staying connected to their loved ones.

By dropping off gently-used cellular phones at convenient locations within Davis County, these donations allow Cell Phones For Soldiers Inc. to help troops call home with international calling cards. As many as 200,000 troops are serving in the United States military around the world.

Since its beginnings in 2004, the agency has provided more than 210 million minutes of free talk time to servicemen and women stationed around the world through its calling card program, Minutes That Matter.

Beginning Monday, January 5, 2015, people can donate their used mobile phones at:

- North Davis Senior Activity Center – 42 S. State St., Clearfield
- Autumn Glow Senior Activity Center – 81 E. Center St., Kaysville
- Golden Years Senior Activity Center – 726 S. 100 E., Bountiful

“As the local partners with Cell Phones For Soldiers Inc., we’ll help by providing three handy locations where Davis County residents can easily donate to a great cause while doing something good for the environment,” said Kristy Cottrell, director of the county health department’s Family Health & Senior Services Division.

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“Our staff, patrons, and volunteers started a letter writing campaign to our active duty military members during last year’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service,” she said. “And that program still continues. As an extension of last year’s service project, we want to expand our support for the troops and their families by offering locations for anyone to donate their used cell phones during the year.”

According to the agency’s organizers, funds raised from the recycling of cellular phones are used to purchase prepaid international calling cards. On average, Cell Phones For Soldiers distributes 3,200 calling cards each week to bases around the world, care package programs, deployment ceremonies and VA hospitals.

“Each year we have been humbled by the amount of people and organizations like Davis County’s Senior Services and RSVP that take the initiative to support our troops,” said co-founder Brittany Bergquist. “The communication gap between those serving and their families is a crucial need that Cell Phones For Soldiers is committed to addressing for years to come.”

Donated phones are sent to Mindful eCycling for recycling. For every donated phone valued at \$5, Cell Phones For Soldiers is able to provide two and a half hours of free talk time to deployed troops.

Approximately half of the phones Mindful eCycling processes are reconditioned and reused. Phones and components that cannot be refurbished are dismantled and responsibly recycled to reclaim materials, including:

- Gold, silver and platinum from circuit boards
- Copper wiring from phone chargers
- Nickel, iron, cadmium and lead from battery packs
- Plastic from phone cases and accessories

For more information, please call Davis County’s RSVP at (801) 525-5094 or visit www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com.

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